

**City of Franklin Common Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Franklin, Indiana was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 70 E. Monroe Street, with Mayor Joseph E. McGuinness presiding. Mayor McGuinness opened the meeting and asked the Clerk-Treasurer to call the roll. Council members Joseph Abban, Joseph Ault, Kenneth Austin, Stephen Barnett, Stephen Hougland, Dr. William T. Murphy and Richard Wertz answered roll call. Clerk-Treasurer Janet P. Alexander, Records Clerk Kathy Cragen, City Attorney Lynnette Gray were also present. Councilor Murphy offered an invocation. Mayor McGuinness led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements & Presentations

There were no announcements or presentations.

Consent Agenda

Mayor McGuinness presented the consent agenda for approval.

- Approval of the November 2, 2015 Common Council Minutes

Council President Barnett made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Councilor Abban. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Old Business

There was no old business presented.

New Business

Council President Barnett made a motion to read all new business by title only, seconded by Councilor Abban. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Introduction(s)

Common Council Resolution No.: 15-20 A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Franklin, Indiana, Authorizing an Extension of the 2015 Loan from the Rainy Day Fund to the Flooded-Properties Acquisition Project – City Engineer Travis Underhill presented the proposed resolution authorizing an extension of a temporary loan of \$125,000.00 for the flood buyout project. This loan was made to purchase and demolish the last four homes in the buyout area. Mr. Underhill stated that 100% of money spent will be reimbursed but he does not know if it will happen before the

end of this calendar / fiscal year. Mayor McGuinness opened the floor for public hearing, no one asked to speak. Council President Barnett made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Murphy. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried. Mayor McGuinness thanked Senior Planner Joanna Myers for her exceedingly hard work on this project over the last seven and a half years.

Common Council Resolution No.: 15-21 A Resolution of the Franklin Common Council Authorizing the Submittal of the Railroad Safety Improvements Application to the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization and Addressing Related Matters - City Engineer Travis Underhill presented a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) grant application for the improvement of all Johnson County railroad crossings. He stated that he and the Mayor have been working with the many Johnson County government agencies including officials from the Town of Whiteland, the Johnson County Commissioners, the Johnson County Highway Department, the City of Greenwood Mayor, and Greenwood City Engineer. Mr. Underhill stated that this grant would cover installing gates, lights, crossing guards and signage. The grant is a 90 / 10 venture. The MPO would fund 90 percent of the project and Indiana Illinois Railroad will provide the 10% match. The cost of upgrading each crossing could cost \$250,000.00 to \$300,000.00. Mr. Underhill stated that there are nine crossings in Franklin with 2 that have already been updated. A discussion was held. It was noted that the third paragraph should be amended to read "and representatives". Council President Barnett made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Wertz. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Common Council Resolution No.: 15-22 A Resolution Authorizing the Submittal of the Place Based Investment Fund Grant Application to the Indiana Office of Rural and Community Affairs - City Engineer Travis Underhill stated that the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) has announced an opportunity to apply for a Place Based Investment Grant (PBIF) up to \$50,000.00, with a 1.5 to 1 match. This would be used to improve the buyout property located alongside Hurricane Creek on Jefferson Street and is adjacent to the popular antique shopping area. The grant proposal is to install a ten to fifteen parking space lot with picnic tables. OCRA requires a resolution authorizing the application for the grant approved by both the Board of Public Works and the Common Council. He reported that the Board of Works approved the resolution earlier today. Mr. Underhill has received a commitment from Discover Downtown Franklin (DDF), and the Franklin Parks Department for a small amount of additional funding. A discussion was held. Council President Barnett made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Austin. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Common Council Budgetary Ordinance No.: 15-21 An Additional Appropriation Rainy Day - Capital - City Engineer Travis Underhill stated this request for an additional appropriation of \$225,000.00 is needed in order to purchase right of way for the truck bypass project. A discussion was held. This is for introduction only tonight, and will be brought back for public hearing at the next meeting.

Common Council Ordinance No.: 15-04 An Ordinance Authorizing Longevity Pay to Merit Police Officers and Fire Fighters Upon Twenty (20) Years of Service - City Attorney Lynn Gray summarized that the intent of this ordinance is to provide a onetime longevity payment to merit officers after twenty (20) years of service, for the purpose of equalizing the retirement benefit of officers on the

new city wide longevity plan with that of officers on the old longevity plan. The proposed ordinance allows for a onetime payment after twenty years of service. This ordinance will be set for a public hearing December 7, 2015. A discussion was held.

Common Council Ordinance No.: 15-13 An Ordinance to Establish Special Cash Fund to Administer Monies Used During Drug & Covert Investigations Conducted by the City of Franklin Police Department - Clerk-Treasurer Janet Alexander stated that this ordinance outlines how we handle buy money for the police department's use in investigations. The State Board of Accounts pointed out that Indiana Code requires an authorizing ordinance. Councilor Ault made a motion to suspend the rules and consider adopting the ordinance on the date of introduction. His motion was seconded by Councilor Murphy. A roll call vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0. Mayor McGuinness opened the floor for public hearing, no one asked to speak. Councilor Hougland made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Austin. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Other Business

There was no other business presented.

Council Comments

Councilor Wertz stated there would be a Redevelopment Commission (RDC) meeting at 8:00 a.m. Tuesday.

Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Common Council, a motion and a second were made to adjourn at 6:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet P. Alexander, Clerk-Treasurer
Enrolled: 12/02/2015

Joseph McGuinness, Mayor

Attest:

Janet P. Alexander, Clerk-Treasurer